



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/370,686 08/09/99 HIRSCHBOLD

M 6270/25

EXAMINER

WEBB, B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 02/16/00

K SHANNON MRKSICH
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P O BOX 10395
CHICAGO IL 60610

MM42/0216

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/370,686

Applicant(s)

HIRSCHBOLD ET AL.

Examiner

Brian S. Webb

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 30-48 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22-29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 August 1999 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☐ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 15) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 16) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.

- 17) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 18) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 19) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: reference number "19". Correction is required.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 6, line 9, the reference number "37" is used to refer to "sealing ring", instead of the "meter socket" which it had already been assigned to, on page 7, line 28, "4b" is used to refer

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to row of bayonets instead of "14b", and separate brief descriptions should be given for each drawing figure.

Appropriate correction is required.

The examiner would like to suggest that the applicant use reference characters in the abstract to facilitate future understanding of the device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olsson et al in view of disclosed prior art.

Olsson et al discloses, in figures 2-4, a circuit board with a plurality of openings each adapted to receive a bayonet, a plurality of electrically conducting bayonets mounted on the circuit board through said openings to define as at least one of a voltage and a current bayonet, wherein a gap is defined between said openings and said bayonets, and solder passing through said gap and extending to both sides of said circuit board. Olsson et al does not disclose an electrical sensor attached to one of the

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bayonets or an electrical sensing meter. The applicants cited prior art, particularly, "QUAD4 Plus and MAXsys Meters and IEDs"(A88), The QUAD4 Plus Solid-State Meter,"(A89) and "American National Standard for Electromechanical Watt-hour Meters"(A97), all clearly disclose detachable electric meters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the circuit board disclosed by Olsson et al. The reason being that they are well known in the art. Attaching an electrical sensor to said circuit board would also have been obvious.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-20 and 30-48 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record discloses or teaches electrical meters with sockets, pins and bayonets mounted on multi-layer circuit boards, multi-layer circuit boards with electrically conductive tracings therein for connecting two bayonets, and thru-hole plating with many conductive elements, including copper. These claimed limitations are well known in the art and would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. The prior art of record does not disclose or teach however the use of a plurality of vias surrounding a hole in a printed circuit board that receive solder throughout and form a structurally sound connection for a bayonet.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 22-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian S. Webb whose telephone number is (703) 308-6080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7: 30-6, Mon - Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Stephan can be reached on (703) 308-2826. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

BSW

BSW

February 7, 2000

Kheim Nguyen
Kheim Nguyen
Primary Examiner